

REMARKS

The objected to claims have all been put into allowable condition.


The Examiner in the Final Action now identifies the sealing layer 44 that comprises a glass fiber mat glued to the metal preform and then coated with a resin mixed with a catalyst as the tubular string of claim 1. While the resin has a pot life based on the catalyst with which it is mixed, the resin gets hard from the passage of time. Because the resin is glued to a tubular that happens to be expanded does not mean that expansion has the first thing to do with the resin getting hard. In claim 1 the act of expansion is the trigger to the tubular becoming hard. In Vincent, the passage of time makes the resin hard. As it happens an expansion of the underlying tubular string takes place during the pot life of the resin but expansion does not have any hardening effect on the resin.

Applicant's further traverse the Examiner's consideration of the glass fibers and epoxy brushed on them as capable of being a tubular string defined by a wall in a wellbore. There is no separate utility disclosed in the reference to Vincent for the seal layer 44. It is simply a coating on a metal preform and in and of itself cannot hold an initial cylindrical shape. Unless it is already hard it would be totally limp by itself. For this reason the Examiner cannot take apart an assembly in the reference and look at 44 in isolation. Even if that were a permissible application of this reference, the fact remains that expansion has nothing to do with the hardening of a resin and catalyst mixture whose pot life is dictated by composition and time not application to a surface that happens to be expanded. Claim 1 uses expansion to cause the hardening. Vincent fails to do this.

Allowance of all the claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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